

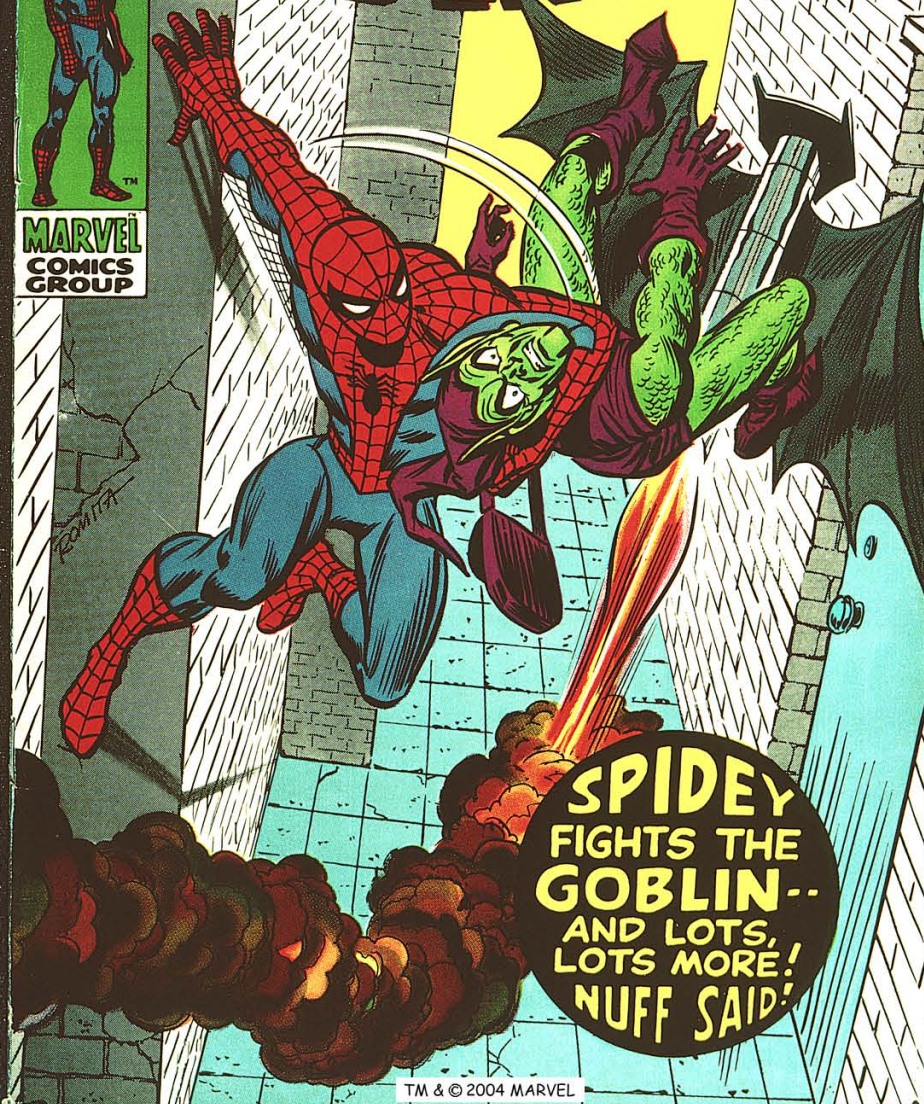
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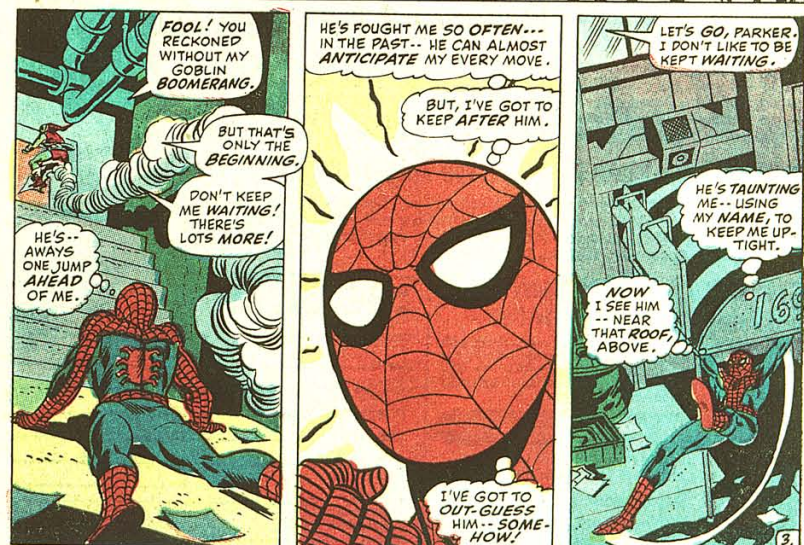
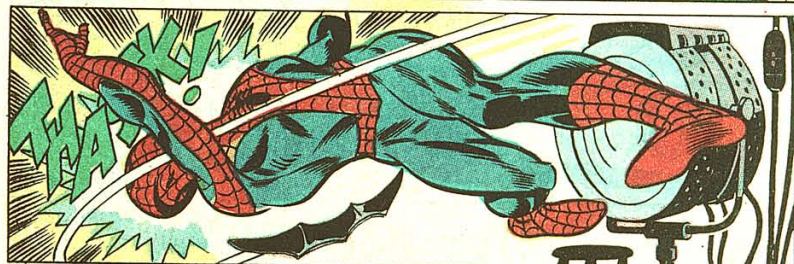
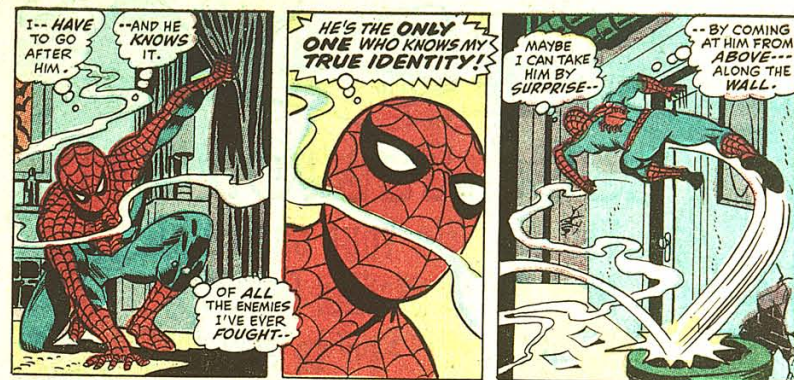
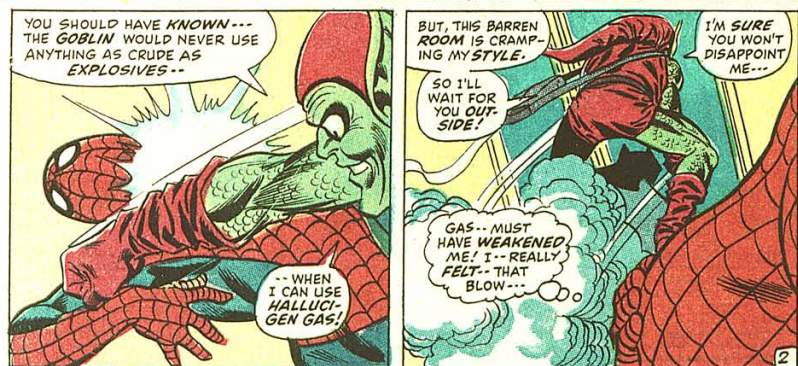
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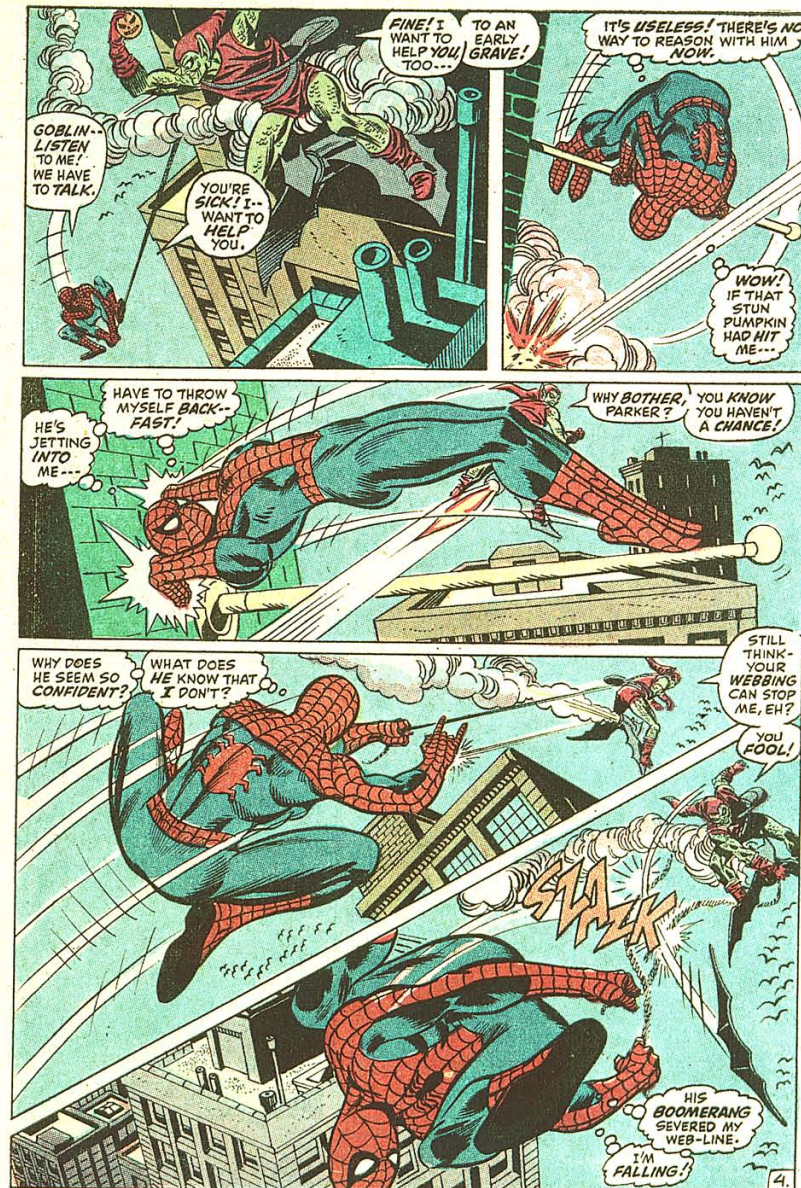
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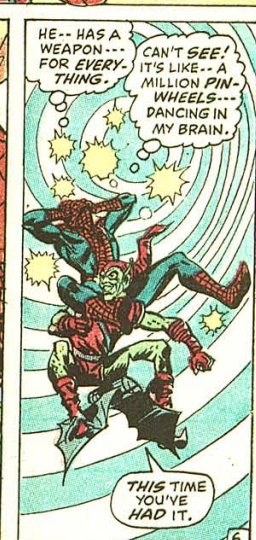
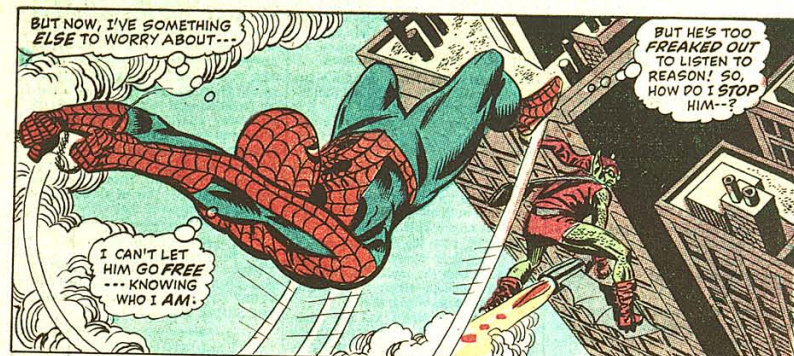
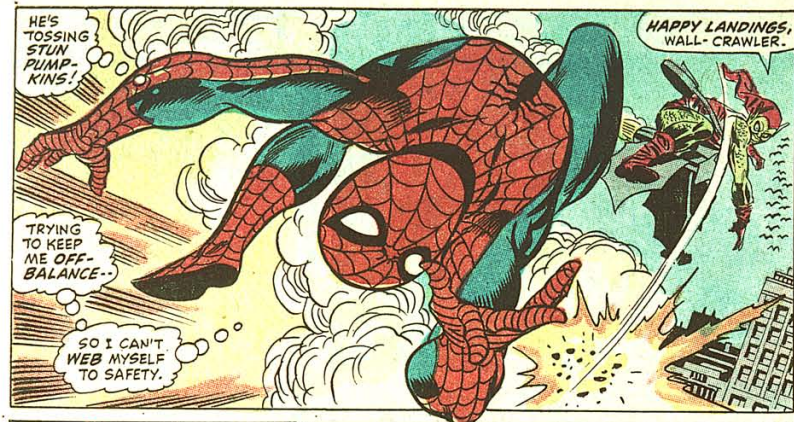
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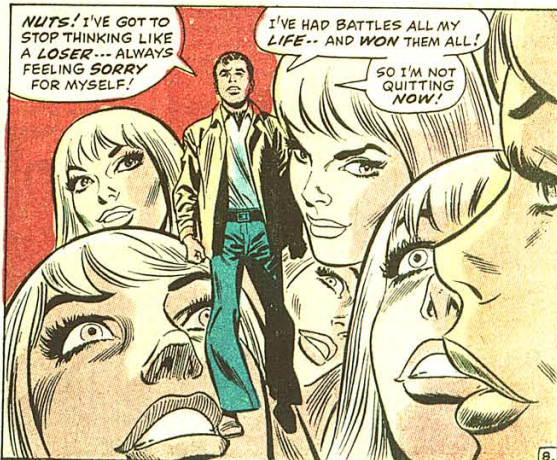
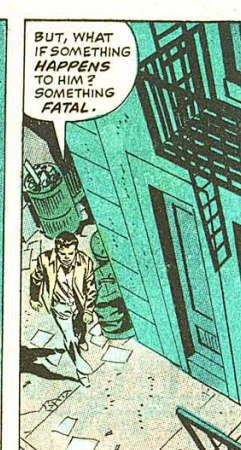
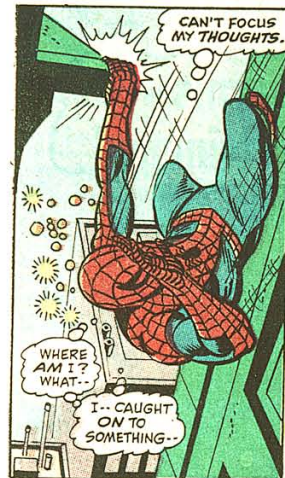
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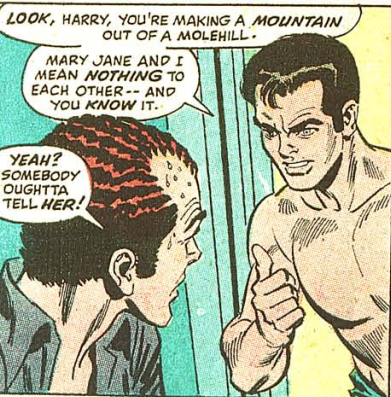
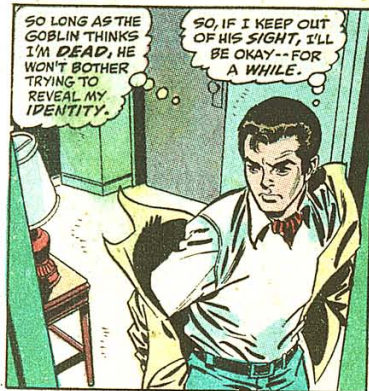
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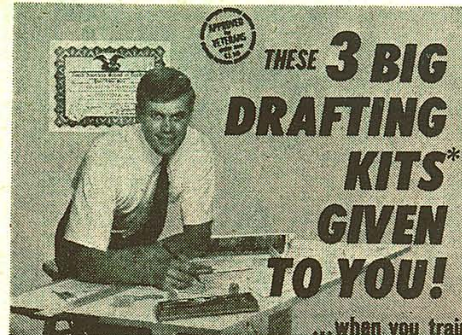
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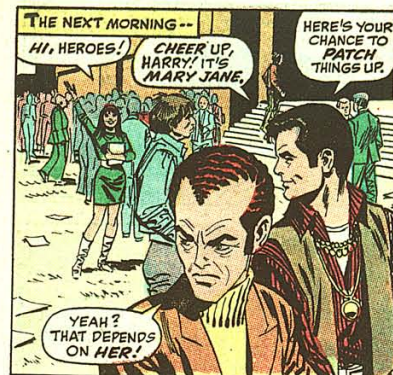
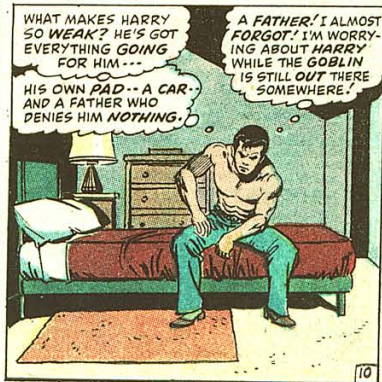
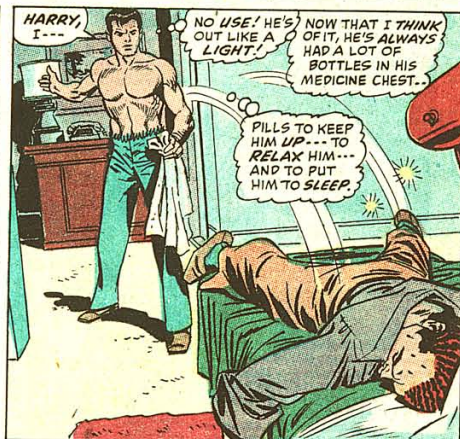
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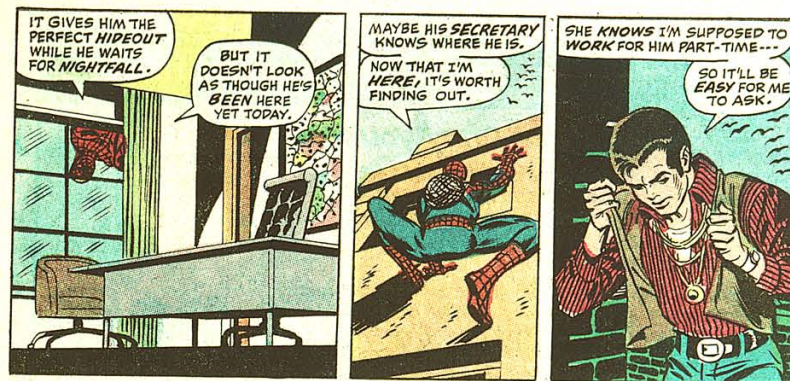
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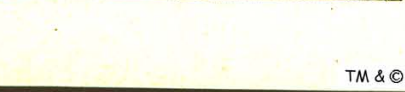
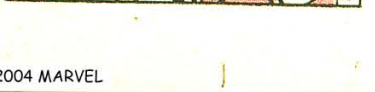


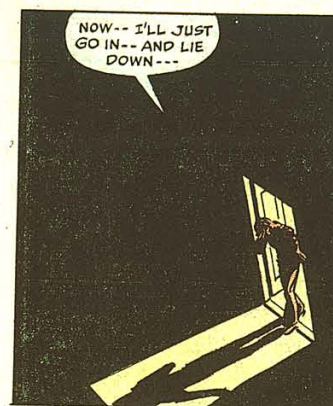










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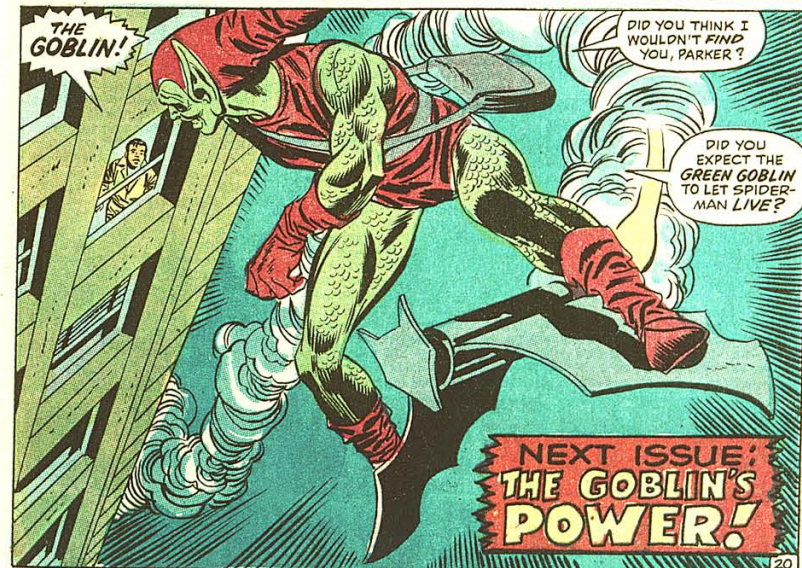
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TEH! Hems! Here's the latest scoop on some of our momentarily mixed-up artist change-overs. GIL (SUGAR-LIPS) KANE has been doing such a great job on SPIDER-MAN that JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA, who's been anxious for a change-of-pace, has eagerly turned the ol' Well-minger's reins over to garrulous GIL. But...there's a small snag: the last of Ring-A-Ding! Johnny is about to be penciling none other than CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON, effective with the current ish. (After all, since Spider himself is the guest star, why not?) As for GENE (THE DEAN) COLAN, we've a brand new project lined up for him—a another 50¢ mag labelled M, for MURDER. But...you know, you're more about it as soon as he finishes the first yarn. But, while we're waiting, Gena! Gene will soon be lending his magical touch to the DR. DOOM series now running in ASTONISHING TALES. And, if you're wondering about WONDROUS WALLY DOOM, here's another bombastic...you'll find his awesome artistic abilities...a sensational... KULL THE CONQUEROR, for seven minutes! Also, before we forget...HONEST JOHN SEVERIN has just returned to the fold, teaming up with ROSS (BOSS) ANDRU to bring you one of the most electrifying SUB-MARINER mag's of all. And, if you think we'll forget...all you that LONESOME GEORGE TRUSKA are responsible for the amazing artwork of IRON FIST. You might...We almost forgot! There's lots more, but let's save it so we'll have something to toss about next month.

TEM! How about a salute to Marvel's unsung heroes—the plucky paint-pushers who color our lively little epics thru rain, and storm, and spring fever! Dean of our cosmic coloring staff is none other than **STAN GOLDBERG**, who also draws **MILLIE THE MODEL** whenever she's modeling. Next we have **MARVELOUS MINNIE GOLD**, who colors in **THE HULK**, **CONAN**, and **DAREDEVIL**. (The coloring, that is!) **NEFARI-UMS** **NEAL ADAMS** colors his own **INHUMANS**, just as **TERRIFIC TOM PALMER** applies the tintinnabulation tints to the **DAREDEVIL** sagas which he colors. **SHARON COHEN**, as all Marveldom knows, is the one who tends many-handed knicks to **IRON MAN**.

Lately, more and more people have been discussing the relevancy of comics. Whenever the conversation arises, comic-books are inevitably compared to movies, plays, and TV shows, and those of us involved in the scripting of a comic are usually asked how our efforts compare to the creation of a scenario for stage, screen, or television. Since there's so much interest in the subject, I'd like to try to illuminate it a bit, though my premises may surprise you. Actually, writing a viable comic-book story is probably more difficult than writing a script for any other medium! Why? Well, think about it a bit. Though the comic-book script requires the same attention to characterization, the same realistic dialogue, and the same dramatic literary structure as any other type of scenario, only the comic-book writer must contend with the torturous limitation of the comic-book script: the comic-book script must capsuleize in a few brief dialogue balloons—the same premise that an author in any other medium may take page after page to expand upon. Yet, the comic-book writer, limited to a few words per dialogue balloon, must give his reader the same reading satisfaction, mental stimulation, and cultural-fulfillment as any other practitioner of the literary arts. And so far as only discussed the script-writing—has he even touched upon the inimitable art of the analysis of some of the important aspects of comic-book illustration will follow in a future soapbox—as soon as we can figure out what they are.

Onward!



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THE SPIDERS' WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan,

It seems that your compellers have come up with a winner, and a format which is popular. As a result, you have begun to use that basic format, with many differences, of course. The big point is that more and more your heroes are fighting the ills of society, rather than super-powered clods with whom few can identify, if at all. Not that a super-clod is bad now and then, but these are usually slug-fests which are better reserved for the bubble-gum brigade. You have specialized the areas which certain characters go into. Spider-Man, Daredevil, and Cap are now working to help the oppressed young generation and the ills caused by the oppressing older one. They deal with robbery, murder, and a host of others—except one, DRUGS.

Without a doubt, drugs are an important part of the corruption of the youth, as well as the old. With headlines screaming of 2-day-old children showing withdrawal signs because their mothers were addicts, don't you think that this is an important topic to cover?

Thus far, I have yet to see a story dealing with drugs. Many of us deal either directly or indirectly with drugs almost daily. My particular high school is overrun with the problem—it's no longer a problem of smoking—it's what they're smoking! In three minutes I can get almost anything: heroin, hash, grass—name it, you've got it! Robbery around my area is almost unheard of—but someone busted for possession of narcotics happens weekly. Something must be done—literature has been written, but it's adult literature—too complex to read. Comics are the perfect medium through which messages about this problem can be conveyed. I know it is tough to work with, but it certainly is important enough to give it a good try! Mary Jane is not addictive physically at the start, but it can lead to psychological addiction to harder stuff later on. Heroin is terminal! Kids die at 12 because they ODed with speed. Maybe this is the only way to reach the kids—by telling them the facts in comics they read!

Consider it, men. If it saves one kid out of 10, that's something. Marvel has taken the lead in so many things in the past—the initiative now.

RIGHT ON, BROTHER!

Evan Kallen, 719 Kenmare Road
Bala-Cynwyd, Penn. 19004

We figured that this was a particularly appropriate ish to print your letter in, Evan, as you must evidently realize after the past twenty pages. This ish certainly is a landmark for Marvel because of the subject matter.

We in the Bullpen feel, as you do, that the problem of drug abuse could not continue to be ignored. And so we HAD to deal with it, regardless of the repercussions from those who are not aware of the importance and scope of the drug problem in this country. We will continue to follow our conscience—are all of you with us?

My friends,

I was reading Vance Packard's *The Hidden Persuaders* for my Advanced Placement English course, like a good girl, and I ran into a few things that I thought might interest you. And I quote: "... The cigar, in our minds, is a symbol of masculine toughness: it is favored by gangsters and hard-boiled bankers. An ad agency, Young and Rubicam, found in a depth study that

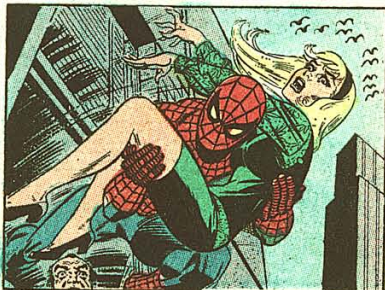
young men feel uneasy smoking cigars, presumably because cigars are such virility symbols that they feel a bit presumptuous trying to smoke them. A study made by a Chicago ad agency (Weiss and Geller) turned up the fact that cigars appeal both to men who are very strong, and to men who are basically weak and small. A cigar feels the little guy feel big..."

Of course we must give equal time to the other side of the question. And I further quote:

"In 1956 a University of Illinois professor, Dr. Maury Mossler (College of Dentistry), told an Oklahoma convention of dentists that a man who enjoys puffing on a big fat cigar is merely indulging in an adult version of thumb sucking. (Cigarette smokers, he said, are doing the same perhaps to a lesser extent.) However, he took the matter calmly. He said it is a method of relieving the inner tensions that build up. But he did make one interesting distinction: the man who puffs on his cigar is sucking his thumb while the man who chews vigorously on his stogie is a nail biter."

Well, there we have confirmation of things every Marvelite has known for years. J. Jonah Jameson is constantly trying to put over an image of toughness. Not only that, but he's racked with inner tensions (such as his frustration at never being able to win over Spider-Man!).

I await the glorious day when Spidey tells JJJ he's a nailbiter. Jean Laidig, 784 Holmdel Road, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733



Dear Stan, John, and others,

In the November general election for the 7th Congressional District seat, guess who was running against Democrat Parren J. Mitchell?

It was—Republican Peter Parker!! And, do you know what? Parker lost by 17,000 votes.

Now, are you gonna give me a no-prize, or am I gonna have to get the Yancy Street Gang to bust a few heads?

Jeffrey Lustman, 7112 Minna Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21207

No violence, Jeff—please! Your no-prize is speeding on its skeptical way to you, but we can't help wondering—if our Pete isn't old enough to vote, how could he be running for office? (Oh—it's a DIFFERENT one, you say?)

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (Real Frantic One)—A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags a month.
T.T.B. (Titanic True Believer)—A divinely-inspired "No-Prize" winner.
Q.N.S. (Quite "Nuff Sayer)—A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

K.O.F. (Keeper Of the Flame)—One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.
P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus)—Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.
F.F.F. (Fearless Front-Facer)—An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear? People,

Hmmphbb. This is about as good as I can do to describe my feelings about SPIDER-MAN #93, and this is the fourth attempt to do so—the other three were crumpled up and thrown away.

It seems like a nice solution to get rid of Gwen; no more identity problems, a chance for new twists in Peter Parker's life, etc.; but it's also purely sadistic!

At least when Betty Brant vanished into the sunset some Marvelites had suggested you get rid of her, but it seemed like everybody liked Gwen Stacy.

Perhaps Pete could go to London and find her? He's found ways to make such long and expensive plane trips before, mostly in the Spidey Annuals. But, alas, somehow my ESP tells me you have no such plans.

Maybe when the Marvel building is buried by letters similar to this one asking for her return, you will change your minds. To be honest, it would seem strange for Pete not to try to find Gwen and tell her the whole story, when he went to all that trouble in the SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #5 to find out about his parents. (Something that wouldn't really change his life physically if he did fail.)

If you don't do something about this atrocity, I'm sure you'll make a lot of faithful Spideophiles weebin' mad!

Since this is about all I can think to say, I'll wait, hopefully, to see what happens.

Excelsiwhatchamacallit! (Or has that been said?)

Odd Bole, 15430 Rossini,
Detroit, Mich. 48205

As you must know by now, Todd, Pete did make the attempt to reach Gwen and—as always—blew it! But don't lose the faith—if fate means for Pete and Gwen to stay together, not even thousands of miles of waves and wind can keep them apart! (Well, eventually, that is!)

Dear Stan,

Every time I pick up one of your superb mags I look forward to reading not only a great story, but also a well-arranged letters page. It is good to know that our very thoughts and ideas are being read and in some instances answered. A magazine published by Marvel has nowhere to go except forward to greater horizons and literary frontiers.

Before your hat size increases to a point of no return, I believe it is time to change the subject.

In issue #93, Todd Bake contributes the idea of tiny hooks being used for Spidey's wall-crawlin'. I do not think this idea has much substantial basis. Since Todd is a believer in scientific reasoning,



let him consider this: It was brought to our attention that Spider-Man possesses tiny, microscopic hooks on his hands and feet. If these hooks are, indeed, microscopic, then it is quite hard to believe that the hooks are able to penetrate the cloth of his glove and able to grip the solid wall of a building. Even if the hooks could penetrate the cloth and grip the wall, it is highly unlikely that the hold would be substantial enough to support Spidey's weight. Now that I've utterly destroyed a fellow Michigander's thoughts, I think I'll close before this letter runs into two issues.

Ken Campbell, 1300 W. "D" St.
Iron Mountain, Mich. 29801

Good thing, too, Ken, 'cause this is one of those moot points we could all argue about for years. Tell you what—let us know when you can PROVE it. Deal?

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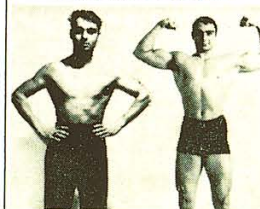


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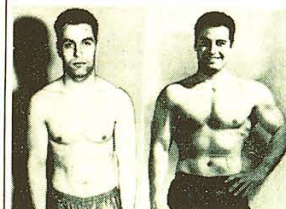


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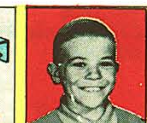
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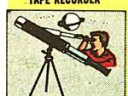
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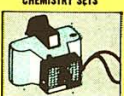
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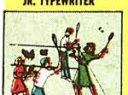
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